

Amend Section 363
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Pronghorn Antelope

- Originally proposed language of the Initial Statement of Reasons changed the number of tags for existing zones to a series of ranges and allowed for issuing doe tags, if desired. Ranges were necessary because final quotas could not be determined until analyses of winter survey results were completed in March, 2003. At the adoption hearing, the Commission approved final quotas for each zone that were within ranges identified in the originally proposed language and based on results of the winter survey. Final quotas are as follows:

Final Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation, 2003			
NUMBER OF TAGS			
Hunt Area	Archery-Only	General Season	
	Season	Period 1	Period 2
	Buck	Buck	Buck
Zone 1	1	5	-
Zone 2	1	20	-
Zone 3	7	44	44
Zone 4	7	46	46
Zone 5	1	10	-
Zone 6	1	10	-
Ash Creek Junior Hunt	-	2 Either Sex	-
Honey Lake Junior Hunt	-	2 Either Sex	-
Fund-Raising Hunt		2	

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting those considerations:

No oral or written comments were received from the public in opposition to or in support of the proposed regulatory action.

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

1. Number of Tags

No alternatives were identified. Pronghorn antelope license tag quotas must be changed periodically in response to a variety of biological and environmental conditions.

2. Editorial Changes

No alternatives were identified.

(b) No Change Alternative:

1. Number of Tags

The no change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not attain project objectives of providing for hunting opportunities while maintaining pronghorn antelope populations within desired population objectives. Retaining the current tag quota for each zone may not be responsive to biologically-based changes in the status of various herds. Management plans specify minimum desired buck to doe ratios which are attained/maintained in part by modifying tag quotas on an annual basis. The no change alternative would not allow adjustment of tag quotas in response to changing environmental/biological conditions.

2. Editorial Changes

The no change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in clear and accurate regulations.

- (c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States: The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None
- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business: The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.
- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None
- (f) Programs mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None

Updated Informative Digest /Policy Statement Overview

Originally proposed language in the Initial Statement of Reason changed the number of pronghorn antelope tags for each zone to a series of ranges for 2003. These ranges were as follows:

Proposed Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation, 2003						
NUMBER OF TAGS						
Hunt Area	Archery-Only Season		General Season			
			Period 1		Period 2	
	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe
Zone 1	1-10	0-3	3-60	0-20	0	0
Zone 2	1-10	0-3	20-80	0-25	0	0
Zone 3	2-20	0-7	25-150	0-50	25-130	0-50
Zone 4	2-20	0-7	25-150	0-50	25-150	0-50
Zone 5	1-15	0-5	3-150	0-50	0	0
Zone 6	1-5	0	3-20	0-7	0	0
Ash Creek Junior Hunt	-		1-10 Either-Sex		-	
Honey Lake Junior Hunt	-		1-10 Either-Sex		-	
Fund-Raising Hunt			1-6 Buck			

Minor editorial changes are also proposed to improve clarity and consistency of the regulations

Final tag quotas for hunt zones were determined by the Commission at the adoption hearing, based on results of the winter pronghorn antelope survey. Final tag quotas provide for adequate hunting opportunities and allow for a biologically appropriate harvest of bucks and does in specific populations. Final tag quota for each zone are as follows:

Final Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation, 2003			
NUMBER OF TAGS			
Hunt Area	Archery-Only Season	General Season	
		Period 1	Period 2
	Buck	Buck	Buck
Zone 1	1	5	-
Zone 2	1	20	-
Zone 3	7	44	44
Zone 4	7	46	46
Zone 5	1	10	-
Zone 6	1	10	-
Ash Creek Junior Hunt	-	2 Either Sex	0
Honey Lake Junior Hunt	-	2 Either Sex	0
Fund-Raising Hunt		2 Buck	